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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 30, 2004

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Poor week for Field Work: There were 3 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture increased and was rated as 61 percent adequate and 39 percent surplus due to the rainy and wet conditions across the state during the last week. Despite thundershowers, 92 percent of the spring tillage has been completed, which is ahead of 88 percent the previous year, but behind 93 percent for the 5-year average. Principal farm activities included spring tillage, planting of spring crops, cutting the first hay crop, spreading fertilizer, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, and repairing fences and machinery.

Crops: The corn crop in Pennsylvania is currently 85 percent planted, which is ahead of last year at 70 percent, and ahead of the 5-year average of 83 percent. Corn emergence, at 67 percent complete, is ahead of last year at 51 percent complete, and the same as the 5-year average, which is also 67 percent. Corn emerged is at an average height of 8 inches across the state, and is rated at 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 34 percent excellent. Winter wheat reached 89 percent headed progress during the last week, compared to 71 percent last year and 81 percent for a 5-year average. The winter wheat crop was rated as 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 55 percent good and 21 percent excellent, which is all slightly improved over last week. Barley turning yellow reached 49 percent last week, which is greater than last year's average of 3 percent and ahead of the 5 year average of 35 percent. Oats planted is currently at 96 percent complete, compared to last year and the five year averages of 97 percent and 98 percent, respectively. Oats is also at 77 percent emerged, which is behind compared to 91 percent last year and 92 percent for a 5-year average. Oats condition is looking good with 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 47 percent good and 11 percent excellent. Soybeans are at 51 percent planted, compared to 37 percent in 2003 and 54 percent for a 5-year average. Soybeans emerged are 32 percent, which is ahead of last year at 10 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 35 percent. Potato planting has reached 91 percent complete by the end of last week, which is ahead of last year and the five year averages at 81 percent and 87 percent respectively. Alfalfa first cutting is 46 percent complete, compared to 29 percent last year and 41 percent for a 5-year average. Alfalfa stand last week was rated as 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 51 percent good and 21 percent was excellent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 54 percent

good and 11 percent was excellent. Cutting has begun on the timothy clover hay and is 17 percent complete, compared with 10 percent last year and 15 percent for a 5-year average. The quality of the hay made so far was 4 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

Peach condition is looking good and is rated as 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 26 percent at excellent. Apple condition also looking good this spring with 26 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Livestock: The weather conditions and warm temperatures has pasture land in Pennsylvania rated at 3 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 45 percent good and 18 percent excellent.

U.S. As of May 23, 2004: Above-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation. Heavy rainfall covered much of the Corn Belt, causing major fieldwork delays. Combined with above-normal temperatures, these rains hastened emergence of summer crops and heading of winter wheat in the region. In the middle Atlantic Coast States, precipitation was moderate and temperatures were well above normal. Moderate to heavy rainfall and well-above-normal temperatures dominated in the Ohio Valley.

Corn: Growers had planted 95 percent of the Nation's corn crop, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Emergence, at 82 percent, was 24 points ahead of last year and 18 points ahead of normal. **Soybeans:** Planting advanced to 67 percent complete, 24 points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of normal. Forty-one percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 14 percent last year and 26 percent for the 5-year average. **Winter Wheat:** Seventy-nine percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 7 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Oat planting advanced to 96 percent complete, 4 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Eighty-five percent of the crop had emerged, 6 points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 30, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 30, 2004						GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F			
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN		
Northwest													
Erie	81	40	61	-1	0.99	3	9.56	2.98	33	474	202	898	
Franklin	86	39	63	3	1.16	5	11.66	4.45	40	478	211	922	
Meadville	81	38	61	3	0.80	4	8.20	1.20	35	441	210	855	
Mercer	82	39	60	-2	1.29	4	8.64	1.61	27	384	108	785	
Springboro	84	36	61	-1	0.41	3	12.88	6.63	38	426	141	829	
Warren	84	39	62	2	1.45	4	14.07	6.66	38	451	197	879	
North Central													
Bradford Region	79	31	59	3	1.08	5	9.84	2.54	38	409	246	805	
Emporium	85	37	64	7	0.65	4	9.43	1.72	35	501	312	943	
Kane	78	30	55	-2	0.83	4	10.35	2.73	30	238	80	578	
Laporte	81	37	62	2	1.07	6	10.13	2.93	40	418	144	826	
Lock Haven	88	42	67	7	1.14	5	11.76	5.02	30	587	279	1,094	
Port Allegany	82	34	61	3	0.83	4	9.94	3.12	33	419	217	813	
Renovo	84	40	65	4	0.89	3	8.36	1.62	29	556	248	1,033	
Ridgway	82	36	61	4	0.41	5	11.62	3.91	30	413	224	812	
Stevenson Dam	86	40	65	8	1.02	5	9.93	2.22	34	528	339	988	
Towanda	88	39	66	6	0.68	2	7.85	1.57	30	520	237	971	
Wellsboro	80	35	62	5	0.64	2	10.43	4.82	32	405	239	808	
Williamsport	87	41	67	4	1.34	5	9.03	2.04	38	615	240	1,132	
Northeast													
Hawley	83	35	63	5	1.26	3	8.16	0.86	28	423	218	833	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	38	65	3	1.18	4	7.39	0.86	28	558	226	1,044	
Susquehanna	86	36	66	9	2.23	4	8.70	1.19	29	514	327	977	
West Central													
Butler	84	39	63	3	0.67	4	9.57	2.40	34	496	199	940	
New Castle	86	40	65	4	0.89	3	9.80	3.37	29	537	245	992	
Slippery Rock	83	39	63	3	1.03	4	11.08	4.33	38	521	260	986	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	82	44	66	4	1.35	2	10.22	3.51	30	575	227	1,036	
DuBois	80	39	62	2	0.81	4	12.07	4.80	41	502	233	936	
Lewistown	88	48	68	5	0.82	2	9.26	2.30	31	613	210	1,120	
Middletown	88	52	72	7	0.26	1	7.95	0.55	25	728	265	1,272	
Prince Gallitzi	82	42	63	5	0.25	3	11.74	2.95	29	503	265	934	
Selinsgrove	89	44	68	6	0.47	2	9.27	2.30	31	579	235	1,074	
State College	85	46	67	5	0.41	2	8.13	1.69	27	594	263	1,070	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	90	41	68	4	1.33	4	6.96	-0.65	28	622	222	1,148	
Lehighton	87	41	66	3	1.46	4	9.87	2.32	29	554	173	1,052	
Matamoras	85	35	63	1	0.84	4	7.07	-1.04	28	442	122	894	
Tobyhanna	86	40	65	9	3.00	5	13.18	4.69	34	454	295	885	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	42	66	5	0.52	3	9.22	1.89	30	663	311	1,157	
Derry	84	38	64	3	0.70	4	12.11	4.96	36	563	255	1,035	
Myersdale	80	40	62	2	0.67	3	10.58	2.46	26	445	148	865	
Mount Pleasant	84	40	65	6	0.23	3	9.61	1.41	23	562	312	1,025	
Pittsburgh Intl	86	42	67	5	0.19	2	9.41	2.78	28	677	296	1,169	
Rector	86	42	66	7	0.25	3	12.62	4.42	40	579	329	1,054	
Waynesburg	85	40	66	4	0.39	4	8.75	1.44	29	578	248	1,047	
South Central													
Biglerville	88	49	69	4	1.24	1	10.51	3.50	29	668	206	1,182	
Everett	83	44	64	3	0.25	1	9.37	2.52	27	490	160	916	
Hanover	88	49	70	5	0.63	1	10.13	3.12	24	696	234	1,214	
Shippensburg	87	50	70	5	0.53	1	9.64	2.87	25	711	235	1,226	
South Mountain	88	46	67	5	0.72	1	11.92	5.21	22	562	221	1,019	
York	86	49	69	4	0.11	1	9.73	2.52	27	674	201	1,199	
Southeast													
Green Lane	96	44	71	8	1.25	4	8.09	0.48	29	716	345	1,265	
Hamburg	90	43	68	7	1.52	5	7.31	-1.34	31	630	322	1,155	
Hopewell	89	45	69	3	0.92	5	9.71	1.93	36	636	144	1,163	
Lancaster	87	49	70	6	0.27	3	8.73	1.54	31	677	275	1,212	
Neshaminy Falls	94	44	71	7	0.11	2	9.13	0.78	25	687	293	1,228	
New Holland	89	51	70	7	0.42	2	7.53	0.34	29	673	271	1,194	
Philadelphia	91	53	72	6	0.09	3	9.39	2.14	27	785	275	1,341	
Philadelphia NE	90	46	71	4	0.12	3	9.11	1.86	27	743	233	1,296	
Reading	90	45	70	6	1.46	3	7.11	-0.98	29	687	306	1,226	
Valley Forge Na	94	41	70	5	0.46	3	8.47	0.69	25	679	187	1,208	
Willow Grove	88	46	70	6	0.29	5	6.20	-2.15	28	704	310	1,252	

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) – The past week has not been a cooperative week for field work. It rains just about every day somewhere in the county. The rains have been very spotty. It has not been a good week to make hay. The wheat is heading nicely. Potato fields were being sprayed this week. Warm sunny days would be a welcome.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker – Crop conditions are good. Some nice hay made during the past week. Rain was ¹/₂" in my gauge. Some warm sunny days will cause rapid corn growth of the next few weeks.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) – Annually a good weekend for field work. Corn planting is wrapping up and first cutting hay for silage is underway.

FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts (EXT) – Days for field work ranged from 3-6 in the Southwest. This due to rain in some places and not in others.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) – Clarion, Venango, Forest, Warren Counties received plenty of rainfall. The counties received over 6 inches this past week and high winds were damaging to forest lands. Several trees were uprooted. Very little planting and harvesting of crops.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) – This week was better than last week, some spotty showers, but rainfall has been more than sufficient in the past few weeks. Most acreage has been planted except for the usual wet areas. Hot weather has helped the corn to grow and is now better than the past several years. Cherries and other fruit crops are looking good and possibly a week earlier than normal. Excellent year for strawberries as well.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY, Marina Kemper – Got corn planted on Monday, 5/24 but have yet to get it sprayed, too wet. It has rained everyday since Monday, hope to get back into the fields soon. Now we need to get hay making weather.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) – Corn and soybeans look fairly good. A few insect problems in some fields. Impossible to make dry hay. Haylage and wrapped baleage are helping get first cutting harvested. Seeing some leaf diseases on wheat fields. With warm wet, weather there will be some yield reductions.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) – Warm weather conditions have encouraged early growth but rains have delayed later vegetable planting.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde – Wonderful week for catching up on many chores. Tobacco farmers are very busy with transplanting. Lots of good moisture everywhere. Great year for No-tilling! Pastures are producing high quality forages, just be careful about weeds and waiting too long to graze or mow.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) – Scattered thunderstorms continue to challenge growers with field work. Some parts of the county received over 2" and others only a half inch. Corn planting is nearly complete and soybean planting is progressing nicely, however haymaking is a challenge to say the least. Some nice hay made early in the week and again by Saturday.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY – Rain has continued almost every day. Some days with heavy downpours. Ground is starting to dry, but another rain is forecast for tomorrow. Field work is at a stand still. Will probably divert corn planting to soybeans. See yellowing of oats and soybeans due to wet weather in nearby townships.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) – A few nice days of weather allowed some corn, and potatoes to be planted but 1 ½ inches of rain at the end of week slowed things down again. Some haylage is also being made. Hay is maturing fast.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer – There were a few field activities undertaken in spite of the heavy thunderstorms on Tuesday and Wednesday. They were spreading manure and fertilizer, spraying of herbicides, planting of corn and soybeans prior to the rains earlier in the week. The repair and adjustment of equipment prior to haymaking also took place. Poor week for haymaking as some fields were chopped and blown back onto the field. Virtually, no dry hay has been made so far.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes – Sun and warm temperatures all in the same week. Made for a busy week of plowing, fitting and planting of corn. Also some haylage being made. That all stopped on Memorial Day, not because of a holiday but because of the rain. Just add two more inches to the total for the month.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA) – Farmers are trying their best to get crops in the ground but it is really difficult with two or three days of nice weather and rain for one or two. Hay is maturing too quickly so quality will be below normal. Ground is very wet. Standing water in many places throughout the county.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) – Showers and cloudy weather slowing progress of planting and hay harvest. A lot of clouds but not a substantial amount of rain at any one time.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) – Cool wet week. Some field work was completed with progress limited by showers, wet soils, and windy conditions. A few fields are still too wet to work. Almost no progress on the first-cutting forage harvest. Corn and soybeans continue to look good with some herbicide applications being delayed because of unsettled weather. The early sweet corn planted under plastic is approaching knee-high and looks excellent.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) – Some heavy thunderstorms and resulting flooding of low lying fields will not be planted. Corn planting is virtually done and soybeans is in high gear as the weather permits. Cloudy, humid weather early in week halted hay making until good conditions returned later on.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 30, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	92	88	93
Corn, planted	85	70	83
Corn, emerged	67	51	67
Corn average height, inches	8	3	4
Barley, turning yellow	49	3	35
Wheat, heading or headed	89	71	81
Oats, planted	96	97	98
Oats, emerged	77	91	92
Soybeans, planted	51	37	54
Soybeans, emerged	32	10	35
Tobacco Transplanted	55	8	37
Potatoes, planted	91	81	87
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	46	29	41
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	17	10	15

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 30, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	1	16	48	34
Wheat	0	3	21	55	21
Oats	3	8	31	47	11
Soybeans	1	1	18	59	21
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	7	20	51	21
Timothy clover stand	1	3	31	54	11
Quality of hay made	4	12	36	36	12
Pasture	3	3	31	45	18
Peaches	0	1	2	71	26
Apples	0	0	26	65	9

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